

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 00799 081543 Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

NIC-01 ACDA-19 GAC-01 SAJ-01 MBFR-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /129 W

----- 005361

R 081525 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1782

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0799

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB

SUBJECT: BERLIN OPPOSITION SEEKS TEST OF STRENGTH WITH SPD ON MAY 10

REF: A) BERLIN A-102; B) BERLIN 752

1. OPPOSITION CDU AND FDP IN BERLIN ARE GEARING FOR MAJOR TEST OF STRENGTH WITH GOVERNING SPD OVER SCHEDULED ELECTION IN MAY 10 SESSION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NEW SENATOR FOR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. IT IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT SPD CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION, SENATSDIREKTOR PAETZOLD, DOES NOT COMMAND UNANIMOUS SUPPORT IN SPD FRAKTION, AND OPPOSITION ENVISAGES POSSIBILITY OF ATTRACTING SUFFICIENT DISSENTIENT SPD VOTES TO INFLICT DEFEAT ON GOVERNMENT. IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THEIR OWN STRENGTH, CDU AND FDP FRAKTION LEADERS HAVE EXPLICITLY DIRECTED THEIR MEMBERS TO BE PRESENT AT MAY 10 SESSION, EVEN, IN ONE OR TWO CASES, WHEN IT MEANT CUTTING OVERSEAS TRIPS SHORT.

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 00799 081543 Z

2. ACCORDING BERLIN CONSTITUTION, ELECTION OF NEW SENATOR IS BY MAJORITY OF HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING. SPD, WITH 73 MEMBERS, PRESENTLY HAS EIGHT SEAT MARGIN OVER COMBINED CDU AND FDP FORCES. HOWEVER, TWO SPD REPRESENTATIVES ARE ILL AND WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND SESSION. A FURTHER THREE WHO ARE KNOWN OR SUSPECTED OPPONENTS OF PAETZOLD WILL PROBABLY BE REQUESTED BY SPD LEADERSHIP NOT TO BE PRESENT. THIS WOULD POINT TO 68-65 SPD VICTORY. APPARENTLY, OPPOSITION IS COUNTING ON ANTI- PAETZOLD SPD MEMBERS TO ATTEND, THUS RESULTING PERHAPS IN TIE VOTE, OR ELSE BELIEVES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ENTICE FURTHER VOTES AWAY FROM MAJORITY.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF RECENT EROSION OF GOVERNING MAYOR'S POLITICAL STRENGTH (BERLIN A-102), A PARLIAMENTARY DEFEAT AT THIS JUNCTURE WOULD REPRESENT A TELLING BLOW TO SCHUETZ' POSITION WITHIN HIS PARTY AND WOULD RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO VIABILITY OF PRESENT BERLIN SPD LEADERSHIP GENERALLY. KLEIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WB
Control Number: n/a
Copy: <CONCATENATED>
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BERLIN00799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730537/aaaaifan.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BERLIN A-102, 73 BERLIN 752
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971222
Subject: BERLIN OPPOSITION SEEKS TEST OF STRENGTH WITH SPD ON MAY 10
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NATO
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

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